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This amendment is filed in response to an office action mailed May 17, 2006 in which the Examiner rejected claims 1, 5, 8, 43, 46, 47, 50, and 53 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Pat. No. 6,108,688 ("Nielsen") in light of U.S. Pat. No. 6,738,616 ("Link II"). The Examiner has also rejected claims 35-37 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Nielsen in view of Link II and further in view of U.S. Pat. Pub. No. 2004/0005040 ("Owens").

In order to streamline the prosecution of the present application, the applicant has cancelled claims 46, 47, 50 and 53.

Claims 69-101 are newly added herein. These claims may rely upon subject matter that was disclosed in provisional application 60/189,089 which forms the basis of the present application. The '089 application was incorporated by reference in its entirety on page 16 of the present application.

Claims 1, 5, 8, 35-37, 43, and newly added claims 69-101 are currently pending.

As a preliminary matter, the specification has been amended to include a description that supports claims 69-101. This subject matter was disclosed in provisional application 60/189,089 which forms the basis of the present application. To the extent that this subject matter may not have been fully recited in this application and merely incorporated by reference, it is now being specifically recited in this application. No new matter has been added.

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 5, 8, 43, 46, 47, 50, and 53 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Nielsen in view of Link II. The Examiner recognizes that Nielson fails to teach or fairly suggest prompting a user to rank the associated contact information. The Examiner contends, however, that it would have been obvious to provide this functionality in view in Link II. Applicant disagrees.

Nielsen discloses a "system for reminding a sender of an email if recipient of the email does not respond by a selected time set by the sender." It "provides the sender of an e-mail message with the capability of automatically generating a warning message on the sender's system if the recipient of the message has not opened the message by a time specified by the sender." *Col. 1, ll. 54-58*. Nielsen relates purely to e-mail (and therefore to messages sent by e-mail), although it does provide mention the possibility of using other means of communication such as telephone calls and pages to notify the sender that a message has not been delivered. *Col. 2, ll 28-30; col. 4, ll. 8-13; col. 8, ll. 8-17*. Contrastingly, the claimed invention is not limited to

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e-mail, but encompasses messages of many varieties sent through many channels of communication.

While the Examiner acknowledges that Nielsen does not teach or suggest ranking associated contact numbers, the Examiner suggests that Nielsen may be combined with Link II to supply this claim limitation. The inventions of Nielsen and Link are incompatible with each other. Nielsen deals with e-mail sent over the Internet. The sender of such e-mail is unable to select the path by which it is sent or any gateway that is used. Link II is directed to an automatic telephone service for a wireless phone for forwarding services to a previously stored directory number.

Most significantly, combining the two inventions would yield no benefit. Nielsen teaches that if an e-mail message is not delivered in a timely fashion, the sender optionally receives a notification (Nielsen, *col. 8, ll. 8-17*). However, because it is the sender who is being prompted "to identify a recipient, the recipient having a plurality of associated contact numbers" in claim 1, for example, the fact that the sender may have a plurality of associated contact numbers is irrelevant. Nielsen also mentions that optionally the message is resent to the recipient by other means through a dialog box that appears after a message has not been delivered in a timely fashion. (Nielsen, *col. 8, ll. 8-37*). Nielsen does not teach or suggest storing multiple associated contact numbers for message recipients. And even if Nielsen did teach storing multiple associated contact numbers, there is not necessarily a need in Nielsen to receive an actual message in response from a recipient after resending a message by alternate means. For example, if a facsimile is sent, a facsimile receipt is generated automatically. If a telephone call is sent, a message may be left if no one answers the call. Nielsen does not teach or suggest requiring an actual response to the resent message. Thus, even if Link II teaches what the Examiner contends with respect to ranking contact information, there is simply no teaching or motivation to incorporate this ranking in the Nielson device. Link II, as with the Examiner's previous secondary reference relies upon information provided by the sender.

With respect to claims 35-37, Owens does not remedy the deficiency of the Nielson and Link combination. Owen has merely been relied upon for the purported teaching of converting speech to text. As such, claim 35-37 are at least patentable for the reasons given in connection with claim 1.

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In addition, claims 5, 8, 43, 50, and 53 all depend from claim 1 and are patentable for at least the reasons given in connection with claim 1.

With respect to claims 69-101, Nielson, Link II, and Owen, alone or in combination, fail to disclose receiving a request to perform a task from a task assigner via at least one first communication medium; converting the request from the at least one first communication medium to digital text; using the text to determine the task; requesting additional information if required to complete the task; performing the task via a host and data in a computer network; and responding to a recipient with information from the completed task via at least one second communication medium.. For this reason alone, the claims are patentable over the references relied upon by the Examiner. In addition, the dependent claims recited further features which are not present in the references relied upon by the Examiner.

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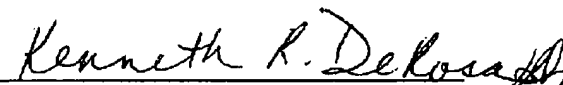
It is respectfully submitted that the claims in the application are allowable.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of all rejections are respectfully requested. Favorable notice to this effect and early Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the examiner have any questions and in order to expedite prosecution of this Application, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned directly.

Respectfully submitted,

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